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STATEMENT BY PHILIP T. REEKER, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

Following is a joint statement by the United States and Spain issued April 12, 2002 in Washington.

Begin Text

**US-SPAIN JOINT STATEMENT
ON THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA**

The Governments of the United States of America and Spain, in the framework of their reinforced political dialogue, are following the events as they develop in Venezuela with great interest and concern and in continual contact.

In this regard, the two Governments:

state their rejection of the acts of violence that have caused a number of fatalities and transmit their condolences to the families,

call for a cessation of the violence and the recovery of public calm,

express their desire that the exceptional situation Venezuela is experiencing lead in the shortest possible time to full democratic normalization and work to obtain a national consensus and the guarantee of fundamental rights and freedoms,

urge the Organization of American States to assist Venezuela in consolidating its democratic institutions.

While expressing their full support and solidarity with the people of Venezuela, the Governments of the United States of America and Spain, state their conviction that only the consolidation of a stable democratic framework can offer a future of freedom and progress to the Venezuelan people.

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